Hyderabad on 24th December, 1996 has been completed; if so, the findings thereof; and

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The Court of Inquiry has commenced. The exact time for completion of the inquiry cannot be indicated.

Civilian killed in Jammu and Kashmir

1214. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1102 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether records are available with Army Headquarters, regarding the civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of both the army personnel and the terrorists since 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 1990; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Records of casualties in terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir are maintained by civil authorities. As per available information, 7163 civilians lost their lives from 1990 till 31st January, 1997.

Defence Equipment Procurement Clause

1215. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government had decided to introduce a clause in every final contract for defence equipment procurements requiring all principals to disclaim using or retaining any agent or representative in India; and

(b) whether the above clause is applied in the case of equipments purchased by Government through the Defence Public Sector Undertakings, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The existing instructions debar agents in the procurement of weapons and weapon systems and prohibit their intercession in the procurement, induction and acquisition of weapons and weapon systems. Contracts concluded with foreign manufacturers carry a clause to this effect. This Clause has, now, been made more stringent by including the stipulation that in case, it is discovered that the seller had paid commission to any agent, the company would be liable to refund the amount to the Government and to face appropriate penal action as per our policy. These instructions have been made applicable to the Defence Public Sector Undertakings, also.

Selection Standards for Entry into NDA

1216. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that selection standards for entry into the National Defence Academy and Military Academy have been lowered recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this is likely to affect the efficiency of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Illegal Construction in Hyderabad Cantonment

1217. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh High Court have given directions to stop illegal constructions forthwith in cantonment areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken to protect defence land from encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has been initiated by the authorities concerned under Cantonments Act, 1924 as well as Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Comprehensive approach to National Security Problems

1218. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the long term comprehensive approach proposed to the national security problems of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): Government continually assess possible threats to national security and ensure the maintenance of adequate defence preparedness.

Decision Making Committee on defence matters

1219. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an apex Committee for decision making on defence matters;

(b) if so, constitution thereof; and

(c) in which year this Committee was constituted and the number of times it has met since its constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) The National Security Council was constituted on 24th August, 1990, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Ministers of Defence, Finance, Home Affairs and External Affairs are Members of this Council. It is a forum to evolve an integrated approach to national security policy having regard to the developing external situation in the political, military and economic fields as well as the prevailing domestic situation. It met on 5th October, 1990.

भारतीय सेना में अधिकारियों तथा अन्य कार्मिकों का अनुपात

1220. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारतीय सेना में विभिन्न श्रेणियों के अधिकारियों तथा अन्य कार्मिकों का अनुपात क्या है;

(ख) क्या अधिकारियों और कार्मिकों के मौजूदा अनुपात में संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो भारतीय सेना की तुलना में कुछ पश्चिमी देशों की रक्षा सेवाओं में अधिकारियों और कार्मिकों का श्रेणी-वार अनुपात क्या है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन०वी०एन० सोमू): (क) भारतीय सेना में अफसरों और कार्मिकों का समग्र अनुपात 1:23 है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Blackmarketing of petrol by armed forces' drivers

1221. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'For cheaper petrol, contact Government Armed forces drivers' which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 2nd January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to prevent blackmarketing and pilferage of petrol; and

(c) if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the Armed Forces, a fool-proof mechanism exists to check theft of Petrol which is being enforced strictly. In some stray cases of theft of Petrol which were detected, deterrant actions were taken against the delinquents. Enquiries, so far